

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 01045 171810Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 MMO-04 /018 W

----- 024532

R 171300Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4936

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 1045

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, SA

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. POST GREATLY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING AND ASSISTANCE CONCERNING PERSONNEL MATTERS, PARTICULARLY THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECOND CONSULAR OFFICER POSITION, THE RECRUITMENT OF AN EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECOND AMERICAN SECRETARIAL POSITION. WE UNDERSTAND THE RECRUITING DIFFICULTIES THE DEPARTMENT IS FACING, BUT WISH TO SUMMARIZE IN THIS MESSAGE OUR CURRENT SITUATION AND SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH BEAR ON THE SUBJECT.

2. AMERICAN SECRETARIES

A. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, MISS STROUD PLANS TO DEPART DHAHRAN SEPTEMBER 15. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT (STATE 180117) TO FILL STROUD VACANCY IN SEPTEMBER EITHER BY PERMANENT REPLACEMENT OR BY TDY SECRETARY.

B. AS A RESULT OF OUR SEARCH IN THE IOBAHRAN AREA FOR TEMPORARY SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A PERSONAL QUALIFICATION STATEMENT (FORM 171) ON THE AMERICAN WIFE OF A USAF COLONEL WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED TO DUTY AT DHAHRAN AIRPORT (WITH USMTM) THIS SEPTEMBER. THE WIFE, MRS. JOANNE SAMSON, IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS A GS-4, STEP 2, SECRETARY/STENOGRAPHER WITH A SECRET CLEARANCE AT HANSCOM, AIR FORCE BASE, BEDFORD, MASS. MRS. SAMSON'S FORM 171 INDICATES THAT SHE TAKES DICTATION AT 120 WPM AND TYPES AT 110 WPM, HAS PAYROLL EXPERIENCE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DHAHRA 01045 171810Z

IN A PRIVATE FIRM AND ATTENDED NIGHT SCHOOL COURSES IN BUSINESS

MACHINES, BUSINESS LAW AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT. SHE WAS GIVEN AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD IN MAY 1976. MRS. SAMSON WOULD LIKE TO WORK AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1. WE STRONGLY URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO CONTACT HER PROMPTLY (TEL: 617-271-2816) TO DISCUSS HER QUALIFICATIONS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF RECRUITING HER AT LEAST ON PART TIME OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT TO COVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WHILE THE SECOND SECRETARY IS BEING RECRUITED. DEPENDING UPON DEPARTMENT'S IMPRESSION OF HER CAPABILITIES SHE MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE SECOND POSITION, THUS SAVING SUBSTANTIAL TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING COSTS. WE EMPHASIZE NEED TO CONTACT MRS. SAMSON SOONEST, HOWEVER, SINCE STRONG DEMAND HERE FOR SECRETARIES WITH HER SKILLS MEANS SHE WILL BE TAKEN OFF JOB MARKET ALMOST IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL.

3. CONSULAR SECTION

A. CONSULAR SECTION IS NOW IN ITS BUSIEST PERIOD OF THE YEAR, WITH THE WORKLOAD HAVING INCREASED SO SHARPLY THAT POST HAS BEEN FORCED TO SHIFT AN FSL EMPLOYEE FROM ADMIN SECTION TO HELP STEM THE TIDE IN THE CONSULAR AREA. IT APPEARS THAT A RECORD 700 NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS WILL BE ISSUED THIS MONTH. DEATH CASES, ARRESTS OF US CITIZENS AND OTHER SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES CONTINUE TO REQUIRE MORE AND MORE MAN HOURS. WE HAVE ASKED EMBASSY JIDDA TO APPROVE OUR HIRING FOR A MONTH OR TWO DURING THIS RUSH PERIOD. AN IRANIAN LADY NOW RESIDING IN DHAHRAN, WHO HAS EXCELLENT LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM EMBASSY TEHRAN WHERE SHE WORKED IN CONSULAR SECTION.

B. BY SEPTEL WE ARE DESCRIBING IN MORE DETAIL THE RAPIDLY INCREASING CONSULAR WORKLOAD AND REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A THIRD FSL CONSULAR POSITION. WE HAVE SEEN THE NEED FOR THIS POSITION DEVELOPING FOR SOME TIME; LOUIS GOELZ SCA/VO, WHO RECENTLY INSPECTED THE POST'S CONSULAR SECTION, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS POSITION, AND WE HAVE NOW RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT WE CAN NO LONGER GET ALONG WITHOUT IT AND STILL MAINTAIN THE REQUIRED LEVEL OF SERVICES IN THE CONSULAR SECTION.

C. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HOPE RECRUITMENT EFFORTS ARE PROGRESSING RAPIDLY FOR THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED CONSULAR OFFICER AND THE DEPARTMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DHAHRA 01045 171810Z

WILL INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING THE OFFICER SELECTED.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

A. PAST TWO MONTHS, SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF OUR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HAVE PLACED HEAVY LOAD ON C&R OFFICER WHO HAS HAD TO HANDLE COMMUNICATIONS IN ADDITION TO SERVING AS OUR ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE

OFFICER. EMBASSY JIDDA HAS RECOGNIZED OUR DIFFICULTIES AND HAS JUST PROVIDED SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE IN FORM OF C&R OFFICER ON TDY. EMBASSY'S COMMUNICATION SECTION IS SHORT-HANDED, HOWEVER, AND HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REMAIN WITH US VERY LONG.

B. WE ARE PLEASED THAT NEW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, JAMES SEWARD, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO USEFUL TRAINING COURSES IN DEPARTMENT. THOSE COURSES ARE MIXED BLESSING, HOWEVER, SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE THE CAUSE OF SLIPPAGE IN HIS ORIGINAL LATE-JULY ETA DHAHRAN. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN NOW PROVIDE US WITH MORE ACCURATE AND EARLY ETA.

5. TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE OF OUR PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT WHILE CONGEN IS RIGHTLY DESIGNATED A COMMERCIAL INTEREST POST, SURROUNDED BY ALMOST UNIQUE TRADE POTENTIALS, THE DEMANDS OF THE CONSULAR WORKLOAD AND OF ADMINISTERING THE POST HAVE MEANT THE POST'S COMMERCIAL PROGRAM AND ECONOMIC REPORTING WORK HAS SLIPPED BADLY. POST'S ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER NOW SPENDS MORE TIME ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSULAR MATTERS THAN HE DOES ON HIS COMMERCIAL WORK, ON NEEDS ONLY COMPARE THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL REPORTING OF SPRING WITH THAT OF SUMMER TO BETTER MEASURE THE DAMAGE. IRONY OF THIS SITUATION WAS THAT WE HAD PLANNED TO USE THE SUMMER TO ORGANIZE OUR COMMERCIAL WORK AND DO LEG-WORK FOR BETTER ECONOMIC REPORTING THIS FALL. THIS, OF COURSE, HAS ALL GONE OUT THE WINDOW AS PRESSING CONSULAR AND DEMANDING ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS TAKE PRECEDENCE. ONE SOLUTION, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN TO CURTAIL VACATIONS AT A TIME WHEN OFFICERS, AND PARTICULARLY THEIR FAMILIES CAN (BECAUSE OF SCHOOL VACATION) AND SHOULD (BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE HEAT) GET AWAY. WE HAVE DONE THIS, RECOGNIZING THAT AT THIS ISOLATED POST, THERE MAY WELL BE MORALE PROBLEMS AS A RESULT LATER ON. MORALE PROBLEMS ASIDE, THIS POST IS CAUGHT IN THE VORTEX OF A STAFFING PROBLEM THAT HAS SERIOUSLY CURTAILED ITS ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS ASSIGNED MISSION. THUS, WE STRESS THE URGENCY OF FILLING THE POSITIONS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 DHAHRA 01045 171810Z

BUSHNELL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DHAHRA01045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760315-1169
From: DHAHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760847/aaaabowr.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 FEB 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <25 JAN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERSONNEL MATTERS
TAGS: APER, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006